

### **Loughner Post-Sentencing Statement by U.S. Attorney John S. Leonardo**

Jared Loughner was sentenced today to multiple terms of life in prison. This sentence assures that he will never be released from prison.

It is our hope that the six members of our community who lost their lives on January 8, 2011 will never be forgotten: Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John M. Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel M. Zimmerman. There is a permanent void in the lives of all they left behind.

For the family members of those who were killed, and for those that survived this terrible event, it is our hope that the final resolution of this case will be a positive step towards their healing process physically, emotionally, and psychologically. It was with them in mind that we offered this plea agreement to the defendant. We also believe that this sentence is appropriate in light of Jared Loughner's severe mental illness.

It seems likely that had Mr. Loughner not suffered from the mental illness of schizophrenia, he would not have committed these horrific acts. Hopefully this event will cause a new awareness of those in our community who suffer from mental illness, and their need for treatment, so that we may avoid similar tragedies in the future.

It is telling that this community did not respond to the tragedy of January 8<sup>th</sup> as it might have with anger, bitterness, or vengeance. Instead, it responded in a positive way by coming together to raise money for the surviving victims, create memorial funds for those lost, perform numerous acts of kindness, and establish organizations to address and overcome divisiveness in our community. Tucson has moved forward from this tragedy with hope, optimism, and a renewed sense of shared humanity.